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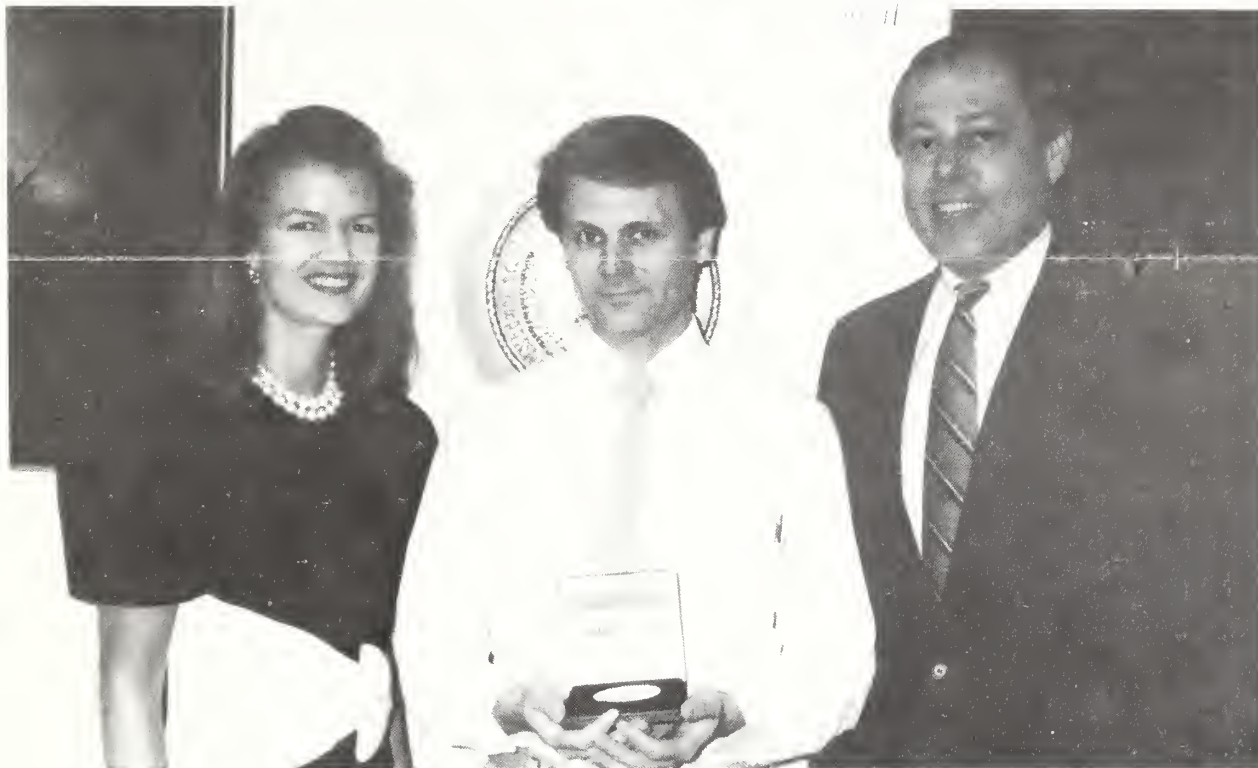
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330
Letter No. 2466 June 22, 1990



USDA RADIO'S GARY CRAWFORD recently accepted a gold medal at the 1990 International Radio Festival of New York for USDA Radio's "The Secret Lives of Vegetables." The festival honors the world's best radio programming, advertising & promotions. USDA's first in the education category beat out entries from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation & a Mexican radio station. Crawford produced "TSLV" in 1989 for USDA's cassette service. The 14-minute radio documentary lightheartedly explores the role of vegetables in our meals, our health & in our culture. Crawford is shown here holding the medal with USDA Deputy Director of Public Affairs Elizabeth Board & USDA Director of Public Affairs Paul Kindinger. This is USDA's first win at the festival. (USDA Photo.)

US & USSR COOPERATE IN CLIMATE STUDIES -- Scientists from the US and the Soviet Union will spend the summer camping in the back country of Siberia on a research expedition to collect data on climate change. The cooperative project will assess possible effects of climate change on forests in both countries and will develop recommendations for management responses. Contact: Diane Hitchings (202) 465-3778.

CONTROLLING WILDLIFE DAMAGE -- USDA has completed a draft environmental impact statement on the animal damage control program. The program is responsible for controlling wildlife damage to agricultural & natural resources, and protecting public health & safety. Contact: Pat El-Hinnawy (301) 436-7799.

LACTOSE & SALMONELLA -- Lactose (milk sugar) apparently can block Salmonella infection in broiler chicks, even when the Salmonella bacteria are capable of fermenting the lactose, USDA Microbiologist Richard L. Ziprin says. Broiler chicks dosed with high numbers of Lactose-fermenting Salmonella had only a fraction of the number of Salmonella bacteria in their bodies after a few days on lactose, Ziprin says. It is estimated that as many as 4 million Americans become ill each year after eating foods contaminated with Salmonella. Contact: Richard L. Ziprin (409) 260-9302.

TRADE SURPLUS DOWN -- The April ag trade surplus fell \$442 million to \$1.5 billion. This is the largest month-to-month drop since April 1989. Exports declined 17 percent to \$3.3 billion, while imports were down 12 percent at \$1.9 billion. The cumulate trade surplus for October 1989 - April 1990 totaled \$11.8 billion, unchanged from a year ago. Source: U.S. Agricultural Trade Update, June 19, 1990. Contact: Steve Milmoe (202) 786-1822.

AFRICANIZED HONEYBEE QUESTIONS -- Did you know the chance of being injured by an Africanized -- or any honeybee -- is far less than the chance of being hit by lightning? And, one sting from an Africanized honeybee is no more painful or dangerous than a sting from any other honeybee. But, Africanized honeybees tend to sting with less provocation & in greater humbers than other honeybees. Contact: James Tew (216) 264-3911.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED WORK -- USDA's Soil Conservation Service is providing an initial \$20 million to help communities in the South clean up after extensive flood damages. "We're working to help the most threatened areas first," says Wilson Scaling, chief of the Soil Conservation Service. "We've gotten requests through our state offices and are allocating funds now." Contact: Diana Morse (202) 447-4772.

WORLD SUGAR MARKET STILL TIGHT -- World sugar production in 1990-91 will fall short of consumption for the sixth consecutive season, USDA economists predict. They say global sugar production will be 107.2 million metric tons, raw value, 2.3 million below consumption. Global sugar consumption in 1990-91 is expected to rise 1.4 percent, to 109.5 million tons. The fastest growth is among the populous developing countries. Contact: Peter Buzzanell (202) 786-1888.

CAPITOL COLUMNS that once graced the East Portico of the U.S. Capitol now stand in the Great Meadow at USDA's National Arboretum. The columns, replaced in 1958 and abandoned, are part of Washington's and the nation's history. The National Arboretum now provides a permanent home for the columns. "The Capitol columns, in their new setting on a hill with a fountain and reflecting pool, reflect the simplest and earliest type of landscaping," says Arboretum Director H. Marc Cathey. Contact: Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1724 -- Efforts to open up the world to more U.S. farm products are intensifying. Maria Bynum reports on an export center at the University of Kentucky. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 min. documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME #1206 -- Public hearings on biotechnology; smoking trends; it's watermelon time; U.S. hams go international; lawn chemicals become controversial. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 - 3 min. consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1713 -- USDA News Highlights; biotech hearings; a peanut marketing system; watermelon growers unite; tapping international markets. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1325 -- Roach-proof construction; keeping clones; gene pool preservation; grass seed production; dwarf tall fescue grasses. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Wed., June 27, Pacific Rim outlook; world coffee situation; Thurs., June 28, crop acreage report, grain stocks, world tobacco situation; Fri., June 29, hog & pig inventory, ag prices; Tues., July 3, crop/weather update; Fri., July 6, dairy production.

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359.
Material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE
Week of June 18, 1990

FEATURES -- Pat O'Leary reports on the "father" of USDA's Forest Service and on a watermelon feast in Washington, D.C.; Will Pemble reports on cockroach allergies & how to avoid them; Andy Alcock of Mississippi State University reports on a new ryegrass variety.

ACTUALITIES -- Greg Gajewski, USDA economist, has the latest ag outlook; USDA Economist Steve Milmo with the U.S. ag trade update; James Grueff, USDA foreign ag specialist, on the GATT negotiations; John Beshoar, USDA attache in Brussels, on European trade; Geoff Wiggin, USDA ag trade officer in Singapore on high value products trade.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- Pat O'Leary reports on reserving a campsite in the national forests.

Available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8:

THURSDAY 7:30-7:45 p.m., EDT, Transponder 12D
SATURDAY 10:30-11:15 a.m., EDT, Transponder 10D
MONDAY 8:30-9:15 a.m., EDT, Transponder 12D
(Repeat of Saturday transmission)

OFFMIKE

FULL SCHEDULE...of daily broadcasts from county fairs, is planned this summer, says Bob Ziegler (WIMA, Lima, Ohio). Bob's ten-fair season operates June to September. Bob says that although crop development is behind schedule because of wetness, equipment sales are improved, reflecting producer confidence this year.

COTTON MARKET...is so tight, says Douglas Thomas (Progressive Farmer Network, Starkville, Miss.), that every time a tractor breaks down in the Delta, word gets out and prices go up. Fields in the region have dried, allowing producers to replant, but the lateness will force producers in northern regions to keep watch for first frost later this year.

WHEAT TEST CUTTING...was underway in the Great Bend area of Kansas when I spoke with Don Baker (KVGB, Great Bend). Don says if rains will leave them alone through the end of June they expect a 35-40 bushel crop average.

Farm Broadcasters Letter

Office of Public Affairs
Radio-TV Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



GRASSHOPPER THREAT...is substantially diminished in most of South Dakota due to rains during insect hatch, says Matt Westergaard (KMIT-FM, Mitchell). Conditions have changed in the past seven weeks, water is standing in the fields. Small grains and grasses are looking good removing concerns about feed supply. Matt says most producers in his area are upbeat.

FLOODS...have subsided and fields are drying in Missouri just in time for good development of the wheat crop, says Lynn Watts (KMZU, Carrollton). Harvest will get underway in July. Lynn and crew are keeping radio company with producers as late planting of corn and soybeans gets underway.

IN CASE...you missed it, our Gary Crawford won a gold medal at the International Radio Festival for his production of an AGRICULTURE USA program. Details on page one.

Vic Powell
VIC POWELL
Chief, Radio & TV Division